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C O N F I D E N T I A L BAGHDAD 03306

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TAGS: [PREL](#) [IR](#) [IZ](#)
SUBJECT: IRAN-IRAQ

REF: (A) USUN 1615, (B) FBIS LD0606090990

11. CONFIDENTIAL - ENTIRE TEXT.

12. THE IRAQI MEDIA JUNE 7 HAS NOT REACTED TO RAFSANJANI'S JUNE 6 INTERVIEW IN WHICH HE COMMENTS INTER ALIA ON THE POSSIBILITY OF A MEETING WITH SADDAM (TEHRAN RADIO VERSION IN REF B). IN SUMMARY, RAFSANJANI SAID THE POSSIBILITY OF SUCH A MEETING WILL DEPEND ON NEGOTIATIONS AT THE EXPERT LEVEL AND "UNDER THE SUPERVISION" OF THE SYG (TEHRAN RADIO) OR "IN CONSULTATION WITH" THE SECRETARY GENERAL (IRANIAN NEWS SERVICE).

13. RAFSANJANI (AND OTHER SENIOR IRANIANS EARLIER) ALSO COMPLAINS ABOUT THE BAGHDAD SUMMIT COMMUNIQUE REMARKS ON IRAN. THE IRAQI MFA HAS TOLD US THAT IT DOES NOT UNDERSTAND THIS ADVERSE IRANIAN REACTION, SINCE THE COMMUNIQUE SIMPLY REITERATED THE LANGUAGE OF THE CASABLANCA COMMUNIQUE, ADDING ONLY REFERENCE TO SADDAM'S RECENT "MESSAGE OF PEACE" TO IRAN.

14. ON JUNE 6, THE PALESTINIAN "AMBASSADOR" TO IRAQ (FATAH) CONFIDED TO THE DUTCH AMBASSADOR THAT THE FIRST SADDAM LETTER HAD BEEN CARRIED BY AN ARAFAT EMISSARY TO TEHRAN. RAFSANJANI'S RESPONSE HAD BEEN HANDED BY THE IRANIAN OIL MINISTER TO HIS IRAQI COUNTERPART AT AN OPEC MEETING. THE SECOND SADDAM LETTER, HE ASSERTED, HAD ALSO MOVED DIRECTLY FROM AN IRAQI TO AN IRANIAN.

15. WITHOUT MAKING CLEAR WHETHER HE HAD SEEN THE LETTER HIMSELF, THE PALESTINIAN SAID THAT SADDAM'S FIRST MESSAGE HAD INVITED IRAN TO LOOK TOWARD REESTABLISHING RELATIONS THROUGH DIRECT NEGOTIATIONS AT THE SUMMIT, WITH AN OPEN AGENDA, AND HAD NOTED THAT LIKE IRAN, IRAQ IS THREATENED BY ISRAEL AND THE UNITED STATES.

16. FINALLY, THE PALESTINIAN CLAIMED THAT AN ARAFAT ENVOY IS EVEN NOW CARRYING A PLO LETTER TO RAFSANJANI, BUT THAT ARAFAT WOULD HIMSELF GO TO TEHRAN ONLY IF TANGIBLE RESULTS OF MEDIATION WERE IMMINENT; E.G., ON A POW EXCHANGE OR TO FIX A DATE FOR IRAN-IRAQ TALKS.

17. COMMENT: WE HAVE NOTED PRESS REPORTS THAT ARAFAT IS NOT/NOT WELCOME IN TEHRAN NOR IS HIS MEDIATION. WE ALSO NOTE SPECULATION THAT THE OMANIS HAVE BEEN CARRYING THE MESSAGES. WE CANNOT EVALUATE THE PALESTINIAN'S COMMENTS, ALTHOUGH WHY HE WOULD FABRICATE ALL THIS TO IMPRESS THE DUTCH AMBASSADOR IS DIFFICULT TO FATHOM.

GLASPIE